

REMARKS

In the outstanding Official Action, the Examiner:

(1) rejected claims 8-11 and 13-16 under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Frankel et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2003/0193974); and

(2) rejected claims 12 and 16 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Frankel.

In response to Items 1 and 2 listed above, Applicants have now amended claim 8 in order to further distinguish the present invention from the prior art. More particularly, claim 8 now recites that the system comprises a plurality of tunable lasers, a grating for receiving the light from each of the spatially offset tunable lasers and directing the same along a common axis, a first thermo-optic prism positioned between the plurality of tunable lasers and the grating for steering the light from each of the spatially offset tunable lasers, and a second thermo-optic prism positioned between the first thermo-optic prism and the grating for correcting an aberration introduced by the first thermo-optic prism, wherein the light from each of the spatially offset tunable lasers is directed through the first thermo-optic prism, then through the second thermo-optic prism, and then into the grating for redirecting the light along a common axis.

The system of claim 8 is now significantly different than the apparatus disclosed in Frankel. More particularly, Applicants believe that the system disclosed in Frankel is configured so that light passes into immersion grating 22, into etalon 26 and then into fiber 18. Thus, Frankel fails to disclose Applicants' system wherein the light from each of the spatially offset tunable lasers is first directed through a first thermo-optic prism, then through a second thermo-optic prism, and then into a grating for redirecting the light along a common axis. This is a significant difference, because the light in Frankel's system is directed into a grating and then an etalon before passing into a fiber, whereas the light in Applicants' invention is passed through a first prism, then through a second prism and then into a grating before entering a fiber.

Accordingly, Applicants believe that claim 8, and claims 9-11 and 14-16, which depend from claim 8, either directly or indirectly, are neither anticipated nor rendered obvious by Frankel.

Applicants have also amended claim 13 to call for a system wherein the light from each of the spatially offset tunable lasers is directed through a first thermo-optic prism, then into a grating for redirecting the light along a common axis, and then

through the second thermo-optic prism. For the reasons discussed above, Applicants do not believe that this claim is anticipated or rendered obvious by Frankel.

Accordingly, this patent application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and allowance thereof is respectfully requested.

In the event that any fees may be required in this matter, please charge the same, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 16-0221.

Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

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